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Tim Andrew 543-7340

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Ivan M. Ivan, Chairperson  
 Myron P. Naneng, Sr., President  
 Phone (907) 543-7300  
 Fax (907) 543-3369

**AVCP**  
 The Association of Village Council Presidents  
 Office of Administration  
 Pouch 219, Bethel, AK 99559



June 24, 2004

Henri Bisson  
 State of Alaska Director  
 Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office  
 222 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Dear Mr. Bisson:

I am writing you as President of the Association of Village Council Presidents, the Alaska Native regional nonprofit for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, to request that BLM hold a hearing in Bethel and at least one village on its decision to revisit its 1998 plan for the Northeast Planning Area of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

AVCP has been involved in migratory bird co-management and conservation for over twenty years. Migratory birds are a critical part of our people's subsistence and culture. Black brant, in particular, have been a species of concern here on the Y-K Delta, which AVCP and our villages have been active in co-managing for conservation. We are concerned that the possible opening of the Teshekpuk Lake area to oil exploration and development might adversely affect black brant populations here on the Delta. Banding studies suggest that nearly 70% of the black brant in the Teshekpuk Lake area may be brant that nest here in the Y-K Delta. In 1998, the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area was omitted from the remainder of the Northeast Planning Area when the remainder of the Planning Area was opened to the oil industry, specifically because of its ecological value.

We therefore request that a hearing be held in Bethel on this decision to revisit the 1998 plan. For our part, we will do all that we can to ensure that people in our coastal villages get word of this meeting, and have an opportunity to comment at such a hearing, although we believe it would also be important for BLM to widely publicize such a meeting in the region's newspapers and radio station, and to accommodate toll free calls from the villages. We would also suggest that BLM hold at least one hearing in a coastal village located near prime black brant nesting areas.

We further request that the comment period be extended past the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Deadline. Summer is the peak of the subsistence season, and more time to comment would allow greater input by affected people here in our region.

Thank you,

Myron P. Naneng, Sr.  
 President  
 Association of Village Council Presidents

Akiachak  
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 Amanutluk  
 Bethel  
 Bill Moore's Sl.  
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 Crooked Creek  
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 Emmonak  
 Georgetown  
 Goodnews Bay

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Kipruk  
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 Lime Village  
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 Mekoryuk  
 Mtn. Village  
 Napaimut  
 Napakiak  
 Napaskiak  
 Newtok  
 Nightmute  
 Nunakuyak  
 Nunam Iqua  
 Nunapitchuk  
 Ohogamiut  
 Oscarville  
 Paimiut  
 Pilot Station  
 Pitka's Point  
 Platinum  
 Quinhagak  
 Red Devil  
 Russian Mission  
 Scammon Bay  
 Sleetmute  
 St. Mary's  
 Stony River  
 Tulukak  
 Tunatuliak  
 Tununak  
 Unkumiut